



Rockville Reports

MARCH 2020 • VOL. 66 #3



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Steps to Pedestrian Safety: Enforcement and Upgrades

The city's ongoing efforts to increase safety on city streets included, in recent weeks, a focus on street crossings, with increased police enforcement at crosswalks and improved signals and flashing beacons.

Enforcement Efforts

The Rockville City Police Department conducts special traffic and pedestrian enforcement operations to address safety issues and community concerns.

"Our overarching goal is to change behavior and improve pedestrian safety for everyone in the City of Rockville," police Chief Victor Brito said.

To see the RCPD's recent enforcement operation in action, visit youtube.com/cityofrockville and search "Pedestrian Safety Enforcement."

Enforcement will be one part of the city's Vision Zero plan, which sets a goal of zero traffic-related deaths or serious injuries. The plan, which the Mayor and Council will take up this spring,

will also include engineering and education efforts, which are ongoing.

Signals for Safety

At the city's request, Montgomery County agreed to install a flashing beacon at the existing midblock pedestrian crossing on Twinbrook Parkway, adjacent to the city's Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.

As of Feb. 6, all traffic signals between MD 28 and Beall Avenue in Rockville Town Center include a leading pedestrian interval phase. This gives pedestrians a 3-7 second head start when entering an intersection where vehicles traveling in the same direction have a green light. The result is that pedestrians have greater visibility to drivers, who are required to yield to pedestrians already in the crosswalk.

LPIs have been shown to reduce pedestrian-vehicle collisions as much as 60%, according to the National Association of City Transportation Officials' website.

Rules of the Road

While Rockville is making safety upgrades and conducting enforcement on city streets, drivers and pedestrians are reminded about Maryland's rules of the road. State law states that drivers "shall come to a stop when a pedestrian crossing the roadway in a crosswalk is (i) on the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling; or (ii) approaching from an adjacent lane on the other half of the roadway."

State law further states that pedestrians have a duty to "not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield." Learn more at bit.ly/MDTranspCode21-502.

Report a Concern

Notice a perilous intersection, problematic path or malfunctioning pedestrian signal? Tell us by visiting www.rockvillemd.gov, scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Report a concern." ❖



Rockville Ranks High in WalletHub Diversity Study

Rockville ranked seventh overall and fourth among small cities in the U.S. for its ethnic diversity, a new WalletHub study found.

Rockville, Gaithersburg, Germantown and Silver Spring once again occupy the top four spots on WalletHub's list and four of the top 10 spots among all cities, of any size, in the entire United States.

"The U.S. today is a melting pot of cultures, thanks to increasing ethnic and racial diversification," WalletHub stated in its Feb. 11 release of the study. "If the trend continues, America will be more colorful than ever by 2045, at which point no single ethnic group will constitute the majority in the U.S. for the first time."

Gaithersburg took top billing on the small cities' list. Rockville earned the same ranking among small cities in WalletHub's 2017, 2018 and 2019 studies. In 2019, Rockville ranked ninth overall in the U.S.

To identify the most ethnically diverse places in America, WalletHub compared more than 500 of the largest U.S. cities across three key metrics.

Rockville ranked 27th overall in ethno-racial diversity, seventh overall in linguistic diversity and 32nd overall in birthplace diversity — all higher rankings over 2019.

More than one-third of the city's residents were born outside of the U.S.

The city's total population is 68,268, according to a 2018 population estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau. Of those, 28.9% are Asian, 15.3% are Hispanic or Latino, and 10.7% are black. More than 45% spoke a language other than English at home.

Read the complete rankings at wallethub.com/edu/cities-with-the-most-and-least-ethno-racial-and-linguistic-diversity/10264/#city-size. ❖

What's in RedGate's Future?

Mayor and Council's Priorities Include Hearing from Public

The future of the 131-acre former RedGate golf course was considered by the Mayor and Council at a work session on Monday, Feb. 3.

After discussing options, including community input received to date, the Mayor and Council directed staff to return with a draft scope of work for a multidisciplinary master-planning consultant team that would reflect the Mayor and Council's goal to reserve all, or a large majority, of the site as a park.

Parkland uses could include passive activities, such as connected trails for biking, hiking and walking, pathways, areas for picnicking, open spaces and natural habitats, or active-use facilities, such as an arboretum, playgrounds or athletic areas.

The Mayor and Council asked that the draft scope also explore the possibility of accommodating housing for veterans or, potentially, people with disabilities.

The master planning process will focus heavily on engaging the community, offering numerous ways to provide input and feedback.

To watch the Mayor and Council's work session discussion on RedGate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and select the TV icon next to the Feb. 3 agenda item. ❖

Check the Mail for Your Census Invitation

Census Day is Wednesday, April 1. By then, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

Get Help

City community centers will open their computer labs for community members who choose to complete their census questionnaire online. Trained staff will be on hand to help from Monday, March 9-Sunday, April 5 and from Tuesday, April 14-Sunday, April 26, as follows:

- Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers: 7-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-noon Saturdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.
- Rockville Senior Center: noon-1 p.m. and 4-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A limited number of coupons for discounted taxi rides to and from the senior center will be available for city residents age 60 and older through

the Rockville Call N Ride program. For more information about Call N Ride, call 240-314-8810 or visit the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

How to Help

Meanwhile, preparations are ongoing to ensure a complete count for our community. The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting to fill temporary positions to assist with the count. Learn more and apply at 2020census.gov/jobs. Montgomery County will hold a training session for volunteer ambassadors from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, in the first-floor meeting room of Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave. Once trained, ambassadors will host information tables, distribute promotional materials and engage with county residents. Learn more and sign up at montgomerycountymd.gov/census/ambassadors.html.

Learn more about efforts to ensure a complete count at www.rockvillemd.gov/RockvilleCounts and in the "Meet a Rockville Employee" article on page 5. ❖

What to expect in the mail.

- March 12-20**
An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
- March 16-24**
A reminder letter.
- March 26-April 3**
A reminder postcard.
- April 8-16**
A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
- April 20-27**
A final reminder postcard before a census taker follows up in person.

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2020

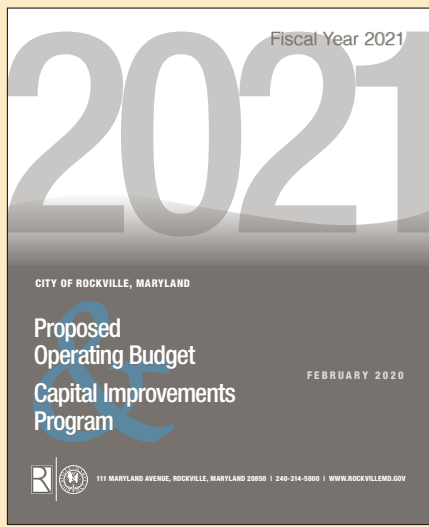
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- 5** Earth-centric Events.

MAYOR & COUNCIL
111 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364

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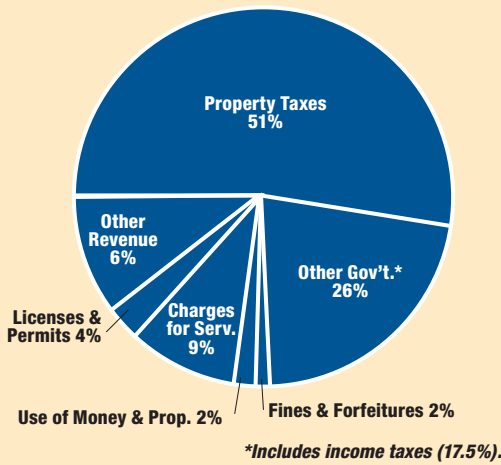
Rockville Utilities

Rockville's four utility funds are enterprise funds. They function like a private business, with costs fully recovered through user charges. The utility funds are the water fund, the sewer fund, the refuse fund, and the stormwater management fund. Rate increases for the water and sewer funds were approved two years ago. They are necessary to repair and replace aging water and sewer pipes and other infrastructure vital to providing these services, and for required payments to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission related to a regional wastewater treatment plant. The city does not control the amount paid for regional wastewater treatment.

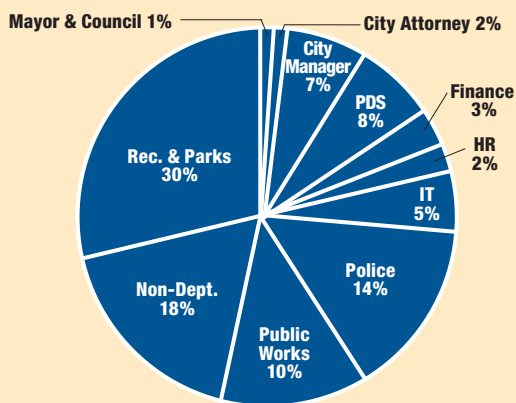
For the city's water and sewer customers, water rates for a residential property with a 3/4-inch meter and 16,000 gallons of usage will increase approximately 5.3%. Sewer rates for the same property will increase 6.9%. Recycling and trash service will increase by \$16, to \$461 per household per year. The stormwater management rate will remain at \$132 per year. For tables illustrating the annual financial impact of changes to the city's fees and charges for two sample households, see page 25 of the proposed budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Understanding the General Fund

Proposed FY21 General Fund Revenues



Proposed FY21 General Fund Expenditures



Budget Watch: Fiscal Year 2021

Rockville's Mayor and Council continue budget deliberations this month with public hearings and work sessions focused on crafting a Fiscal Year 2021 budget that outlines the city's priorities.

City Manager Rob DiSpirito was scheduled to present the Mayor and Council with a FY 2021 budget proposal on Feb. 24, after the deadline for this edition of "Rockville Reports." Find video of the presentation with the Feb. 24 meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The budget, which covers the fiscal year that begins July 1, is scheduled for adoption by the Mayor and Council on Monday, May 4.

The proposed FY 2021 operating budget of \$144.2 million is an increase of 3.8% over the total operating budget for FY 2020. The general fund budget, which supports the largest portion of the operating budget, is \$86.7 million, a 3.1% increase.

Increased revenue from property tax and income tax will help support the operating and capital budgets. The city's current real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation would remain the same for FY21. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate in over 25 years.

The proposed budget includes funding for an upgraded radio communication system for the public works and recreation and parks departments; redesign of the city's website; upgraded security at the water treatment plant; smart parking meters; adjustments for the new minimum wage; increased support for Rockville Economic Development, Inc.; and contributions to the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department. Other priorities include employee safety equipment, energy conservation, compliance with the America's Water Infrastructure Act, a new city branding initiative, security at special events, improvements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act, and funding for pedestrian safety infrastructure and education.

The proposal calls for an increase in full-time posi-

tions, including three new refuse workers approved by the Mayor and Council during the current fiscal year to address growing service demands. Other proposed positions include a media specialist in the city's cable television station, an arts and culture coordinator under the City Manager's Office, a new police officer, an event specialist in the Recreation and Parks Department, and a new housing specialist in the Planning and Development Services Department.

The proposed FY 2021-FY 2025 Capital Improvements Program, the five-year plan for funding new construction and infrastructure maintenance, includes \$20.7 million in new funding, combined with a carryover of \$50.7 million to support 53 projects during the fiscal year. ❖

OFFER YOUR IDEAS

- At www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- At public hearings during the March 2 and 23 Mayor and Council meetings.

FY 2021 BUDGET CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- **March 2:** Public hearing and Mayor and Council work session.
- **March 23:** Public hearing and Mayor and Council work session.
- **April 17:** Close of public record.
- **April 20:** Mayor and Council work session.
- **May 4:** Adoption of the FY 2021 budget.
- **July 1:** Start of FY 2021.

Meetings are broadcast on channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

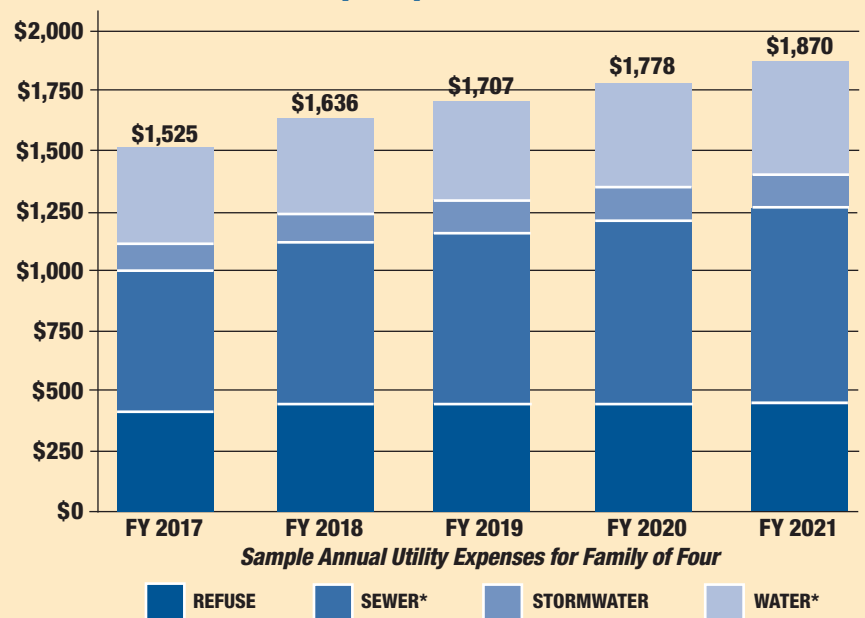
To review the proposed budget, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.

Proposed Rockville Utility Rates

Based on the proposed FY21 rates, annual residential expenses for city utilities for a sample family of four would increase by \$91.68 for the year, an increase of 5.2%.

	ADOPTED FY 2020	PROPOSED FY 2021
Refuse Rate		
3.6% increase	\$445 per year	\$461 per year
Sewer Rate*		
6.9% increase	\$763.48 per year	\$815.92 per year
Stormwater Management Rate		
No increase	\$132 per year	\$132 per year
Water Rate*		
5.3% increase	\$437.84 per year	\$461.08 per year

Past Five Years of Utility Expenses



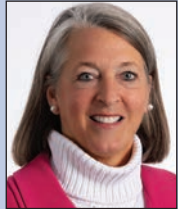
* The city's water and sewer rates are tiered based on meter size. Nearly all the capital costs in the sewer fund, and a substantial portion of the operating costs, are payments that are not controlled by the city for the operation of and capital improvements to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority's Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant. For more on water and sewer rates, see page 367 of the proposed budget. Find the proposed budget at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.



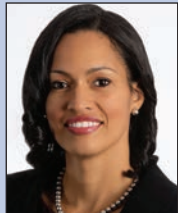
WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? March is packed — not only is it Women's History Month, March celebrates the American Red Cross, Irish-American heritage, middle level education, youth art, and music in our schools. It's also National Celery Month, which tangentially fits with March as National Nutrition Month, as well as National Professional Social Work Month. (St. Patrick's Day is Tuesday, March 17. Have fun, but be responsible!)

Mayor & Council

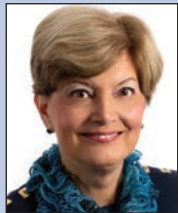
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Meetings: Mondays, March 2 at 7 p.m. and 23 at 6 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by Councilmember David Myles on March 23.

Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11.
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to mayor council@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@ (continued in right column...)



Mayor and Council Invite Public to Dedication of Renovated Swim Center

A dedication ceremony featuring the Mayor and Council, at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 1, will formally mark the opening of renovated lobby and locker rooms at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center.

The newly renovated lobby and lockers rooms were made available to customers in late January.

Key elements of the project included a complete renovation and expansion of the locker rooms and reconfiguring of the lobby; modernizing infrastructure and amenities; and improving Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. The center grew by about 7,000 square feet due to the expansion.

The indoor pool's locker rooms were constructed in 1968 when the center had only one swim-

ming pool. The swim and fitness center now has two indoor and three outdoor pools, a whirlpool and fitness and exercise rooms, and hosts more than 300,000 customer visits each year.

See how the lobby and locker room project developed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rsfrenovations. To see Rockville 11's video on the upgrades, visit www.youtube.com/cityofrockville and search "Fitness Center Upgrades."

Contact the swim and fitness center at swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8750. Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is a full-service aquatics, fitness and recreation facility located at 355 Martins Lane. For hours and other information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter. ❖

Students Have a Chance to be Mayor for a Day in May

Deadline for Essays is March 27; Mayor to Visit Rockville Fourth Graders

Rockville fourth graders once again have a chance at serving as the city's Mayor for a Day this spring by taking part in the statewide "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

The theme of this year's contest, organized by the Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Mayors Association, is "Re-imagine Tomorrow." Students are asked to write an essay, no longer than 275 words, that would describe how, if they were mayor, they would reimagine their community and describe how they'd make tomorrow better.

One winning essay will be

selected from each of MML's 11 regional districts throughout the state. Winners will receive \$100 cash and a governor's citation and will be recognized during an awards ceremony in Annapolis. Essays must be received by mail by Friday, March 27.

The Mayor and Council consider the contest to be a wonderful exercise in government studies and encourage fourth graders attending schools in Rockville to participate.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton welcomes the opportunity to speak with students about the essay contest, municipal government and what it is like to be

Spring Forward and Check Your Smoke Alarms

Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 8, which is the ideal reminder for homeowners to check their smoke alarms while setting clocks forward an hour.

Your home's smoke alarms are the best way of notifying you and your family of a fire. State law requires that battery-operated smoke alarms be replaced every 10 years from the date of manufacture. The devices should also be tested at least once a month.

State law also calls for older smoke alarms to be replaced with new, sealed, long-life battery-powered smoke alarms. Hardwired 120-volt electric smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years with new 120-volt smoke alarms with battery backup to ensure proper and timely operation in a fire.

Homeowners with hardwired smoke alarms should not replace their devices with battery-powered alarms. Fire code-compliant smoke alarms can be purchased at most home improvement stores.

For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fire-safety or email Carl Young, city fire marshal, at cyoung@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

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rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Learn more below and find other ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions. Note: Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

- **March 3 Asian Pacific American Task Force** 7:30 p.m.
- **March 4 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee** 7 p.m.
- **March 5, 12, 19, 26 Development Review Committee** 9 a.m.
- **March 5 Environment Commission** 7 p.m.
- **March 7 Board of Appeals** 9 a.m.
- **March 10 Human Services Advisory Commission** 6:30 p.m.
- **March 11 Board of Supervisors of Elections** 6 p.m.
- **March 11 Cultural Arts Commission** 7 p.m. Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr.
- **March 11, 25 Planning Commission** 7 p.m.*
- **March 12 Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee** 7 p.m.
- **March 18 Rockville Sister City Corporation** 7 p.m.
- **March 19 Senior Citizens Commission** 10 a.m. Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr.
- **March 19 Historic District Commission** 7:30 p.m.*
- **March 25 Human Rights Commission** 7:30 p.m.
- **March 25 Rockville Housing Enterprises** 6:30 p.m. David Scull Courts Community Center, 1133 First St.
- **March 26 Recreation and Park Advisory Board** 7 p.m. Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road.

*Televised on Rockville 11.

Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Historic District Commission (3 reg./1 alt.)
- Human Rights Commission (1)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (1)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission (2)
- Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc. (1)
- Senior Citizens Commission (1)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.

Wanted: Community's Comments for RCPD Review

The community is invited to offer comments about the Rockville City Police Department at a public hearing, in writing or by phone, as part of the department's reaccreditation process.

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.,

will arrive on Monday, March 16 to examine all aspects of the RCPD's policy and procedures, management, operations, and support services.

The team will verify that the department meets the commission's state-of-the-art standards as part of a voluntary process to gain reaccreditation

– a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

Rockville community members and RCPD employees will be able to offer comments at a public information session at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 18 in the Mayor and Council chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

continued on pg. 7...



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

Spring Recreation Guides Are Out!

“Life in Rockville” and “Adults 60+,” the city’s guides to recreational programs, courses and events throughout Rockville, are out and packed with the promise of spring!

Sixty pages of “Life in Rockville” are filled with dozens of things to do from March to May: events; sports and leagues for all ages; performances at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre; aquatics and fitness programs at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center; nature walks and talks at the Croydon Creek Nature Center; before and after-school care at the city’s three community centers; and much more.

“Adults 60+,” a publication of the Rockville Senior Center, lists programs for Rockville’s mature adults, including computer classes, educational courses, trips, arts, fitness and sports.

See the guides at www.rockvillemd.gov/life. To register online for programs, courses and events, and to browse listings of what the city has to offer, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Register in person or pick up copies of the guides at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. or any recreation facility.

Senior member registration begins Tuesday, March 3. General registration begins Thursday, March 5.

Multimedia Scholarship Competition

The city’s Human Rights Commission is accepting entries for its Multimedia Scholarship Competition through 5 p.m. Friday, March 27.

Formerly known as the Multimedia Contest, the revamped annual program is an opportunity for students who live in and/or attend high school in Rockville to compete for tuition and/or book scholarships by responding to one of several prompts focused on human rights.

The prompts, applications and additional information can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights.

Students may choose their desired medium, e.g., an essay, poem, song, painting, or other medium, through which to respond to the prompts. Submissions will be judged by a panel comprised of high school faculty, community leaders and HRC members. Judging will be based on creativity, work quality and relevance.

First-, second-, and third-place winners will be announced at a Mayor and Council meeting and will be awarded up to \$2,500 in scholarships.

Be Safer on the Road for Longer

Drivers can learn how to stay driving for longer during a free “Staying Safe on the Roads” event cosponsored by the City of Rockville and Montgomery County.

From 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Thursday, April 2 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, attendees will explore ways to extend their time behind the wheel as long as possible, how to manage bike lanes, bikers and other road users, and discover a variety of ways to get where they want to go.

The event will feature Carol Wheatley, a driving rehabilitation specialist; the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration; AARP Driver Safety; and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation.

Additionally, hear presentations, visit resource tables and enjoy light refreshments. The City of Rockville’s new transportation planner, Alyssa Roff, will be on hand to meet attendees and hand out information.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is at 603 Edmonston Drive. RSVP at bit.ly/RkvRoadSafe.

Planning Commission Sets Public Hearing Dates for Neighborhood Section of Comprehensive Plan Draft

Comment will be Open for Vision and Goals for Neighborhood-based Planning Areas

Rockville’s Planning Commission has completed its review and edits to the initial staff draft of the neighborhood-specific sections of the comprehensive plan update and has set hearing dates of May 13 and 27 for the public to provide comments to the commission. Written comments will be accepted leading up to and just after the hearings.

Combined with the first half of the draft comprehensive plan, the Planning Areas component work will guide neighborhood, or planning area, policies and projects throughout the next two decades.

The second component of Rockville’s comprehensive plan update, “Volume II: Planning Areas,” was delivered in December to the city’s Planning Commission for its review. Rockville’s comprehensive plan sets a vision and goals for the future of the city, with practical policies and actions to achieve those goals.

Volume II consists of policy recommendations and recommended city projects for each of the city’s 17 geographic planning areas. These recommendations build on citywide policies of the draft “Volume I: Elements” — which the Planning Commission reviewed over the past year — by focusing on issues and opportunities

unique to each planning area.

Both draft volumes derive from feedback gathered throughout the Rockville 2040 process, which included numerous listening sessions, citywide forums, open houses and other meetings, as well as analysis and discussion with the Planning Commission.

Planning staff is available to answer questions and meet with community associations, residents, businesses, workers and other organizations by request so that community members can learn more about the draft’s contents and how to provide feedback.

When public hearings are complete, the Planning Commission will hold work sessions to revise the plan based on public input. It will then submit both volumes I and II of the revised draft plan to the Mayor and Council for review and action. The Mayor and Council will invite public testimony to inform its final decisions.

Approval and adoption of a final version by the Mayor and Council will be the final step in the process.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040 or contact senior planner Clark Larson at clarson@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8200. ✚

Major Sign-regulation Revisions Implemented for New Year

Rockville’s code inspectors will be enforcing new regulations preventing signs within city rights of way in an effort to reduce visual clutter and ensure safety, especially at intersections.

No signs except official public signs will be allowed within a public right of way. Any signs found violating the provision will be removed by city inspectors. That includes both commercial and noncommercial temporary signs.

More stringent enforcement follows the recent adoption by the Mayor and Council of major revisions to the regulation of signs in Rockville.

Other elements of the new sign code include:

- All commercial signs will require a permit, whether permanent or temporary.
- Noncommercial temporary signs will be generally allowed without a permit but must comply with regulations.

- Off-premises signs are not permitted, except within certain major development projects.
- The amount of signage allowed per commercial tenant has been increased from the prior ordinance, with fewer limitations on logos and accent colors.
- A sign-variance procedure has been implemented requiring approval by the city’s chief of zoning that will replace the Sign Review Board.
- Signs in connection with construction projects are allowed up to 200 square feet in size.
- Temporary banners for the opening of a new business are allowed for up to 60 days and may be 32-48 square feet, depending on the size of the front of the tenant building.

A manual that includes the relevant regulations on signs and sign enforcement can be found at bit.ly/RkvSignRegs. ✚

Planning Commission Approves Stonestreet Amendment

Mayor and Council will Consider Next

The city Planning Commission has approved a draft of the Park Road and North/South Stonestreet Avenue Area Comprehensive Master Plan Amendment, with changes that reflect both the community process that led to the amendment and testimony received from a recent public hearing.

The amendment now goes to the Mayor and Council for their consideration. The Mayor and Council will also hold a public hearing before taking final action.

The amendment to the plan outlines a new vision for the Park Road and North/South Stonestreet Avenue area, a unique

location close to the Rockville Metro Station, Town Center and residential neighborhoods.

The amendment approved by the Planning Commission promotes a walkable, transit-oriented mix of residential and commercial development immediately across Park Road from the Rockville Metro Station, and would set policies to permit additional housing units in the residential areas closest to the station across South Stonestreet Avenue.

For more information, contact Andrea Gilles at agilles@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8273. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/stonestreetstudy to view the amendment. ✚

FAST Development Services Forum

Permitting and Inspections Update

Wednesday, March 18 • 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.
Mayor and Council Chambers

Join City Manager Rob DiSpirito and Planning and Development Services Director Ricky Barker for an interactive stakeholder forum.

Hear updates from city staff on recent changes to the city’s building codes and permitting process. Learn how to navigate the process more effectively.

Provide feedback and help improve the permitting process. Breakout sessions will cover updates to development fees, the city website and more.

Connect with us on Social Media.



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11’s YouTube channel, (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): See moments from Black History Month; join the Mayor and Council for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center lobby and locker room renovation dedication; take an icy plunge in the Chesapeake Bay with the Rockville City Police Department; and find out when a 25-year-old time capsule will be unearthed at the senior center.

Make Every Day Earth Day This Spring

The 50th anniversary of Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22. Join the City of Rockville as we celebrate throughout the year with the Make Every Day Earth Day campaign – including the following activities and volunteer opportunities this spring:



Make Every Day Earth Day
CITY OF ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

- **March 23: Mayor and Council Issue Earth Month, Earth Day and Earth Hour Proclamation,** 7 p.m. City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.
- **March 24: Organic Lawn Care Talk,** 7-8 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave. Join Mary Travaglini, of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, to learn about healthy soils and tips for maintaining your lawn without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. Free. Register at bit.ly/OrganicLawnMarch2020.
- **March 28: Rockville Tree Giveaway,** 9-11 a.m. Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. See article on this page.
- **April 1-2: Montgomery County Energy Summit,** 8 a.m.-5 p.m. in Silver Spring. Learn more at www.mcenergysummit.org.
- **April 2: Rockville Brewshed: Green Happy Hour Campfire,** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road. Enjoy a beer or two while you learn about the City of Rockville's sustainability efforts and programs, environmental volunteering opportunities and upcoming events. Must be 21 or over.

Register for course #13293 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

- **April 7: Arbor Day Celebration,** 1 p.m. Woodley Gardens Park, 900 Nelson St. Rockville will mark Arbor Day and 31 years as a "Tree City USA" with a tree planting ceremony.

Croydon Creek Nature Center Offers Programs Throughout the Year

Looking to spend more time in nature? Search for Croydon Creek Nature Center's Little Acorns, Nature Tots, Outdoor Science Club or Nature Lab programs at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Planning for summer? Sign up for a CCNC camp before they fill up. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

Find a complete list of events celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day at www.rockvillemd.gov/EarthDay50.

For environmental news and events, and tips for helping the environment year-round, sign up to receive the city's Environment and Sustainability quarterly newsletter in your inbox. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability." ✚

Meet a Rockville Employee:



Manisha Tewari

Manisha Tewari, a principal planner in Rockville's Department of Planning and Development Services, has been with the city for over 14 years. We asked her a few questions about her job, including her role in preparing the city for the 2020 United States Census. (*Learn more about the census on page 1.*)

What does a principal planner do?

A principal planner performs difficult professional planning work that requires a proactive and sometimes influential approach to coordinating activities between city departments and outside agencies and the community to contribute to the overall quality of life and orderly growth and development of the city.

As a principal planner, I developed several components of the city's comprehensive plan, in collaboration with other departments, and helped manage public outreach for Rockville's update to the master plan process. I also develop strategic documents highlighting the state of the city by analyzing development trends and growth patterns related to demographics, housing and economy, and conduct other specialized studies. I coordinate with surrounding jurisdictions such as the county, Montgomery

College and Montgomery County Public Schools, and develop testimony on their master plans and capital improvements programs to promote Rockville's interests. I provide census and other employment data to city departments to assist in their budgets, grants and recruiting processes. I use geographic information systems extensively to visually represent various analyses.

What have you been doing to help the city prepare for the 2020 census?

I led the city's efforts to ensure the Census Bureau had good data about Rockville for both the 2010 and 2020 census. Both projects involved considerable preparation and training. We have been preparing for the 2020 census for the past two years. In spring 2018, I compared the Census Bureau's draft list of residential addresses to the city's database of 28,650 residential addresses, and identified over 2,100 new addresses to add, and others to correct or remove as incorrect, or that were outside city limits. In October, I participated in a Census Bureau program to identify new construction since March 1, 2018, and identified over 700 new

continued on pg. 7...

Peerless Presents Stories of Slavery and 'Women Who Dared'

Peerless Rockville marks Women's History Month in March with a presentation on remarkable Rockville women, takes a closer look at Rockville's role in the Underground Railroad and highlights the flight to freedom of five boys sold into slavery.

Great Escapes: Journeys on Maryland's Underground Railroad • 6 p.m. Friday, March 20, Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square

Historian Anthony Cohen presents a preview of the upcoming book "Great Escapes: Journeys on Maryland's Underground Railroad." A project of The Menare Foundation, Inc. and Heritage Montgomery, the book explores the people, places and social forces that created a pathway to freedom, forged by self-emancipating slaves and their allies from the 1830s to the brink of the Civil War. A Q&A session will follow.

Lunch & Learn: Rockville Women Who Dared • Noon, Wednesday, March 25

Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square

Ann Maria Weems, Frieda Fromm-Reichmann and Vivian Simpson are just a few of the remarkable women in Rockville history. In this Women's History Month presentation, Mary van Balgooy, executive director of the Society of Women Geographers and former Peerless Rockville executive director, will highlight the lives and achievements of Rockville women of different eras and backgrounds, detailing how the determination of these women to improve their lives led them to step out of women's traditional roles and even risk their lives. Bring a lunch. Seating is limited. Contact Peerless Rockville at 301-762-0096 or Info@PeerlessRockville.org to reserve a seat.

Stolen: The Story of Free African Americans Kidnapped into Slavery • 2-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 29, Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave. in Rockville Town Square

Richard Bell, an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, College Park, will present his book "Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home," the true story of five free black boys who – lured onto a ship with the promise of food and pay, then smuggled from Philadelphia to the Deep South – were able to escape and initiate a manhunt to bring their captors to justice. (Note: This event was originally advertised for February.) Cosponsored by Friends of the Library, Rockville Memorial Chapter. Admission is free. For tickets and more information, visit Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd. on Facebook or bit.ly/PeerlessStolen.

"Great Escapes" and "Stolen" are presented in association with Peerless Rockville's new exhibit, "Forging Freedom: Endurance, Escape, and Rockville's Underground Railroad," which features the brave fugitives who fled slavery in Rockville, the abolitionist network that helped and the endurance of the enslaved community. The exhibit is open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, in the historic courthouse.

Say 'Yes, Please!' to Free Trees

The City of Rockville will mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day by giving away free trees.

The Rockville Tree Giveaway will be from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, March 28 at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Rockville residents, including homeowners, homeowners associations and nonprofits, will be able to choose up to two free trees, from among a selection of large shade trees and small flowering trees.

Trees will be available on a first come, first served basis. Limit two trees per household. Supplies are limited, and species preferences are not guaranteed. Rockville residents only.

Questions? Contact environment@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8877.

Volunteers Needed for Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission

The City of Rockville Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission is seeking two tenant representatives to join the board.

The commission plays a vital role in the city as a quasi-judicial body created to resolve landlord-tenant complaints, and has the power to hold hearings, and issue decisions and

orders, that have the force of law.

Assistance from the commission's staff liaison, and having the case heard before the commission, is a free alternative for resolving disputes, and often preferable to a court case.

The Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission consists of 10 members — two

landlords and one alternate, two tenants and one alternate, and three members of the public and one alternate — who must live within the city or, in the case of landlords and operators, own or operate rental facilities within the city.

For more information about serving on the

Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission, contact staff liaison Crystal Gorham at 240-314-8320 or cgorham@rockvillemd.gov.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions to see vacancies on the city's boards and commission, and learn more about the application process. ✚



LIGHTS OUT! ... Rockville will turn out the lights in observance of Earth Hour, an international effort in support of climate change action. Earth Hour encourages people to turn off all non-essential lights in their homes and businesses for one hour, from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 28. The city will participate by turning off all nonessential lights at the city's Gude maintenance facility. See the article above for more ways to make every day Earth Day!



SPONSOR A CITY OF ROCKVILLE SPECIAL EVENT

Connect with potential customers in Rockville.

Promotional opportunities include:

- Onsite booths.
- Logos on materials.
- City social media postings.
- More, depending on level of support.

More than 150,000 people attend city special events each year, including:

- Hometown Holidays Music Fest
- Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show
- Rocktoberfest
- Lunar New Year

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/sponsorship or email elisdeal@rockvillemd.gov.

Register Now for Spring Sports

Registration for youth and adult sports is now open.

Adult sports during the spring are: men's softball; co-rec softball; co-rec basketball; co-rec volleyball (indoor and beach); and co-rec soccer. Game nights vary.

Registration deadlines for adult league players and teams are in late March.

Youth sports for spring are youth coach-pitch baseball, T-ball, soccer, and track and field. Practices for youth track and field begin at the end of March, with meets beginning in mid-April. Practices for youth soccer, T-ball, and coach-pitch baseball begin in early April, with games beginning mid-April.

The registration deadline is Thursday, March 5. Coaches are needed for teams in spring youth sports leagues. If you're interested in taking part, contact sports@rockvillemd.gov.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports for league details and registration information or call 240-314-8620.

Get Set for the Suds & Soles 5K

Registration is open for the 2020 Suds & Soles 5K.

This year's race, to be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 20, has once again been selected as the Maryland Road Runners Club of America 5K Championship Race.

The Montgomery County Road Runners Club and the City of Rockville are teaming up again to present this 5K course on neighborhood roads that begins and ends in Town Center.

The post-race party will feature the opportunity to sample great beverages from local breweries. A KidZone, for children 10 and under, will feature a kids fun run, children's activities and light refreshments.

The race features a tiered pricing structure offering limited slots at reduced prices. Learn more, including about sponsorship opportunities, at www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles.

Creatives Summit Aims to Bring Together City's Arts Community

The Rockville Cultural Arts Commission is inviting groups from Rockville's arts community to a summit to discuss how to create a more vibrant, culturally diverse, financially sustainable, and economically beneficial arts and culture scene in Rockville.

The Rockville Creatives Summit will be held from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, March 22 in the Buchanan Room of

VisArts, 155 Gibbs St.

The summit will cover topics including ideas for marketing and building a diverse audience, as well as the future of arts and culture in the city.

To register to attend, visit www.visitrockville.org and click "Rockville Creatives Summit March 2020," or email rockvillecac@gmail.com. ✚



Photo courtesy of Rockville Little Theatre.

AN IMPORTANT PERFORMANCE ... Following matinee performances of Rockville Little Theatre's "A Raisin in the Sun," actors and members discussed their production with 900 students and teachers from area schools.

The "talkbacks" are part of RLT's partnership with local high schools and middle schools, a program that aims to expose students to high-quality live theater and boost the schools' drama departments and clubs.

Attendees came from Richard Montgomery and Seneca Valley high schools, and Lakelands Park Middle School, and included homeschooled students from Montgomery County.



Journey to Penzance, Spain and Swan Lake, This Month at the F. Scott

The final performance of "Pirates of Penzance," a trip to Spain and a classic Tchaikovsky ballet are all on stage this month at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

"The Pirates of Penzance," presented by the Victorian Lyric Opera Company. 2 p.m. Sunday, March 1.

Gilbert and Sullivan's beloved comic opera tells the story of Frederic, a boy mistakenly apprenticed to a softhearted band of pirates. Features many of Gilbert and Sullivan's wittiest and most engaging tunes, including the immortal "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General" and "Poor Wand'ring One." Directed by Amy Sullivan; choreographed by Jacklyn Rogers; music directed by Joseph Sorge.

Tickets cost \$28; \$24 for seniors 65 and older; and \$20 for students.

"Spanish Roadtrip," presented by the Rockville Concert Band. 3 p.m. Sunday, March 8.

Enjoy a musical road trip exploring and discovering the diverse regions and towns of Spain. No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation.

"Swan Lake," presented by the Rockville Civic Ballet. 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14 and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 15.

The tragic tale of Prince Siegfried and the Swan Queen.

Tickets cost \$17; \$13 for children 12 and younger and seniors 60 and older.

For tickets or more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre, call the box office at 240-314-8690, or email theatre@rockvillemd.gov. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. ✚

World Culture Comes to Rockville with Performances and Food

Performances representing world cultures, some of which have found a home in Rockville, return Friday, March 20 to the stage of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

International Night is a celebration of the living, breathing example of Rockville's success as a truly cosmopolitan city, one that respects and encourages people of all cultures, creeds and colors.

At this free event, attendees will be able to see clothing displays and sample unique and traditional foods, experience performances from differ-

ent cultures, engage with people from different countries and learn about their customs.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Event begins at 6 p.m. No tickets or registration are required, but seating is limited. Free parking is available directly behind the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/internationalnight or contact yyeboah@rockvillemd.gov. The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. ✚



Look Out For the 2020 Summer Camp Guide Programs for Kids and Teens!

Available at city facilities and Rockville libraries; online at www.rockvillemd.gov/life.

Registration is open!



TOILETS AREN'T TRASH CANS ... Rockville has a flushing problem. Increasing amounts of unflushable trash are clogging city sewer lines — and can clog pipes in your home, creating a costly mess. The "unflushables" include items you might not think of: Did you know "flushable" wipes really aren't? Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/dontflushtrash to learn more about what to flush, what not to, and what happens when unflushables get flushed. Warning: It's gross.

March CALENDAR

CC Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
GM Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
FSF F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.

LP Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.
CH Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
SR Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.

FACILITIES LEGEND:

SFC Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
TF Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
TC Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



1 ROCKVILLE SWIM AND FITNESS CENTER LOBBY AND LOCKER ROOM RENOVATION DEDICATION CEREMONY. See article on page 3. Free. 2 p.m. **SFC**

1 VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY PRESENTS "THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE." See article on page 6. Tickets: \$28; seniors 65 and older \$24; students \$20. 2-5 p.m. **FSF**

2,16 MEMORY CAFÉ. The Alzheimer's Association Memory Cafe offers a fun and relaxed way for people living with early-stage memory loss to connect with one another through social events that promote interaction and companionship. Meets first and third Mondays. Bring a bag lunch. Must contact representative, Sheila Griffith at 240-428-1342 or sagriffith@alz.org prior to attending. Free. Noon-1 p.m. **SR**

3,17 SELF ADVOCACY. Self-advocacy is about knowing what your needs are, knowing what could help you address those needs and communicating about your needs to others. This group reviews self-advocacy skills with the goal of feeling more independent and in charge as you find solutions to challenges. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

4,21 LITTLE ACORNS: NEST AND BURROWS. Explore nature with children ages 18-36 months through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Register for "Nests and Burrows" on March 4 (course #12203) and "Signs of Spring" on March 21 (course #12204). \$7 R/\$9 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

5,19 WOMEN LIVING ALONE SUPPORT GROUP. A long-standing open-enrollment support group where members support each other through listening, tips, suggestions and advice. Meets first and third Thursdays. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

6 PARENTS' NIGHT OUT. Drop your kids off for a night of fun activities. Ages 5-12. Register for course #13219. \$15 R/\$20 NR. **TC**

8 DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS. See article on page 3.

8 "SPANISH ROADTRIP," PRESENTED BY THE ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND. See article on page 6. 3 p.m. **FSF**

10,24 SENIOR COPING SKILLS. Life skills can often be adapted to different circumstances and stages of life. This group shares the best and most-used coping skills for seniors. Best practices will be presented with an opportunity for discussion. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

12,26 GRATITUDE. A psychoeducational group and discussion on conducting a life with a focus on gratitude. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

13 PICKLEBALL SOCIAL. A fun evening of pickleball celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Wear green. Light refreshments between each game. Register for course #12242. \$14. 6:30-9 p.m. **TF**

14,15 "SWAN LAKE," PRESENTED BY THE ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET. See article on page 6. 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14 and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 15. **FSF**

17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION. This fundraiser for Rockville Seniors, Inc. offers fun for the whole family with entertainment, and food and beer available for purchase, including green beer, chili dogs and a baked-potato station. Registration required with course #87071. 5-7 p.m. **SR**

18 FAST DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FORUM, PERMITTING AND INSPECTIONS UPDATE. Join City Manager Rob DiSpirito and Planning and Development Services Director Ricky Barker for an interactive stakeholder forum. Hear updates from city staff on recent changes to the city's build-

ing codes and permitting process. Learn how to navigate the process more effectively. Provide feedback and help improve the permitting process. Breakout sessions will cover updates to development fees, the city website and more. Free. 8:30-11 a.m. **CH**

18 EXTRAORDINARY MINDS IN MCPS FORUM. Partnership for Extraordinary Minds and the Montgomery County Public Schools' Department of Special Education Services present a forum for parents to learn about public school placements and services for students across the autism spectrum. Register at xminds.org/xMinds-in-MCPS-Forum-2020. Free. 6-9 p.m. Julius West Middle School, 651 Great Falls Road.

19 NATURE TOTS: ANIMAL HOMES. Discover the wonders of nature with your child. Each session, a naturalist delves into a different nature topic through play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Ages 2-5. Register for course #12210. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

20 SALSA, SIP AND STRETCH. Enjoy 20 minutes of salsa, followed by 20 minutes of basic yoga and relaxation, and time to chat with new friends over snacks. Register for course #12236. Free. 10:30-11:30 a.m. **SR**

20 GREAT ESCAPES: JOURNEYS ON MARYLAND'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD. See article on page 5. Free. 6 p.m. Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square.

20 INTERNATIONAL NIGHT. See article on page 6. 6-8:30 p.m. Free. **FSF**

21 SUPERHERO PARTY. Dress as your favorite heroic character and meet some real-life superheroes. There will be games, crafts, face painting and a moon bounce. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Adult admission is free. Register for course #12028. \$10 R/\$12 NR/\$12 at the door. 2-4 p.m. **TF**

22 OUTDOOR SCIENCE CLUB: AMPHIBIANS. Young scientists investigate a science topic through hands-on activities and time spent exploring the forest preserve. Ages 6-8. Register for course #12217. 1:30-3 p.m. **CC**

22 ROCKVILLE CREATIVES SUMMIT. See article on page 6. Free. 1-5 p.m. Buchanan Room, VisArts, 155 Gibbs St.

24 ORGANIC LAWN CARE TALK. See article on page 5. Register at bit.ly/OrganicLawnMarch2020. 7-8 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

25 LUNCH & LEARN: "ROCKVILLE WOMEN WHO DARED." See article on page 5. Free. Noon. Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square.

28 ROCKVILLE TREE GIVEAWAY. See article on page 5. 9-11 a.m. **SR**

29 STOLEN: THE STORY OF FREE AFRICAN AMERICANS KIDNAPPED INTO SLAVERY. See article on page 5. Free. 2-3:30 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave.

29 NATURE LAB: TEETH. Explore nature with engaging hands-on and minds-on experiments and adventures. Time will be spent indoors and outdoors. Dress for the weather. Ages 9-11. Register for course #12206. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 3-4:30 p.m. **CC**

31 TURNING 65? There are important questions for seniors turning 65. Do you need to sign up for Medicare? Can you work and get Medicare? Do you need a refresher? Join representatives from the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program and learn where to begin and how to get help. Free. 6-8 p.m. **SR**

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

Employee Spotlight

continued from pg. 5...

residences not included in the 2018 residential review. If the new units are occupied by April 1, they will receive a 2020 Census questionnaire. This process enables the Census Bureau to mail questionnaires to all households using the corrected address list.

Why is a complete count of the census so important?

Census data is used to determine the city's sociodemographic characteristics, which affect how billions of dollars in federal funding are distributed for things like health care, senior centers and housing, social services, jobs, roads, schools, and businesses. It is estimated that each person

not counted by the census costs the state about \$18,250 over a 10-year period. Census data is also used to define representative boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative districts and voting precincts, and for enforcing voting rights and civil rights legislation.

What other projects are you working on?

I'm involved in strategies for improving the vitality of Rockville Town Center. I'm also managing the next round of city forecasting for housing, population and employment, in coordination with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. This process will help the city plan and implement policies to keep Rockville competitive in the region, and determine infrastructure and budget needs

to serve our current and future population. I'm also working on strategies so that Rockville can grow as envisioned in the master plan.

Is there anything else we should know that we haven't asked about?

I have a bachelor's degree in architecture and a master's in planning. I like working as a public service professional, and my interdisciplinary training and experience has allowed me to contribute to Rockville's built environment and effectively (I hope) serve the community. I enjoy working for the city because it has provided me with opportunities for learning, growth and success, and allowed me to achieve a balance with my professional and personal life. ✚

Police Accreditation

continued from pg. 3...

Those who cannot attend the public information session but would like to provide comments may do so by calling 240-314-8398 from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 18. Comments by phone or at the hearing are limited to 10 minutes.

Written comments should be sent to: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc., 13575 Heathcote Blvd., Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155.

All comments must address the department's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. Copies of the standards are available at the police station at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. Learn more about the RCPD at www.rockvillemd.gov/police. ✚

Memorial Day Parade Participants and Speakers Wanted

Save the Date for Hometown Holidays

The city's 76th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 25, in Town Center. Applications to participate in the parade are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 10.

The city is seeking speakers for the Memorial Day ceremony. Rockville and Montgomery County residents who have retired from, or currently serve in, the United States military are eligible to take part in the ceremony. Volunteer speakers must be comfortable speaking in public and must prepare a five- to seven-minute speech about their experiences in the armed forces, including what it means to serve and to honor those who have served.

Contact Amanda Knox at aknox@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8604 to participate or learn more.

The parade and ceremony will cap off a weekend that includes the Hometown Holidays Music Fest in Rockville Town Center. The 32nd annual free festival will feature four stages of entertainment, the Taste of Rockville and activities for kids, from noon-8 p.m. Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24.

Find more details, as they are announced, at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH and "City of Rockville Hometown Holidays" on Facebook.

Swim Center Staff Refresh Skills to Aid Accessibility

Renovations of the lobby and locker rooms at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center have made the facility more accessible than ever.

In anticipation of more use, instructional staff at the swim center, including swim instructors and volunteers, attended an in-service training in January on serving customers with disabilities in the facility's learn-to-swim programs.

The training was offered through a partnership with the Montgomery County Recreation Department. A therapeutic recreation specialist delivered information on providing services to individuals with disabilities to more than 40 staff and volunteers.

The training included a review of requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act, inclusive practices, and ways to modify instruction to suit individual needs.

The Mayor and Council will hold a dedication ceremony to formally mark the opening of the new lobby and locker room at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 1. (See the article on page 3.)

See how the lobby and locker room project developed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rsfrenovations.

Contact the swim and fitness center at swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8750. The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is a full-service aquatics, fitness and recreation facility located at 355 Martins Lane. For hours and other information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

Community Police Academies Offer Hands-on Experience

Community members can learn what it takes to be a police officer through the Rockville Community Police Academy or a special course aimed at 60-plus residents.

Registration is now open for the Rockville City Police Department's free, eight-week Rockville Community Police Academy. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, March 26-May 14 in the conservatory of Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. Participants 18 and older will learn about all aspects of the department, receive hands-on training and earn a graduation cer-

tificate upon course completion. For more information and registration, email Cpl. Kevin McBride at kmcbride@rockvillemd.gov.

RCPD is also offering a free course highlighting safety for the 60-plus population and exploring code enforcement, the K-9 unit and forensic science. Participants will also tour the police station. Classes meet from 10:30 a.m.-noon on Wednesdays, April 1-May 6, in the Azalea Room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Register for course #12987 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. +

Help Keep Your Brain, Memory, Nutrition and Heart Healthy at the Senior Center

Find out more about your brain's inner workings and your memory, as well as good nutrition and heart health, this month at the Rockville Senior Center.

Register at the senior center's information desk by calling 240-314-8800, or online with the course number at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Rewiring Your Brain

From 1-2 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, learn about the brain's amazing capacity to rewire itself throughout its lifespan, as well as the four basic stages of change that can lead to being life-minded. This free session is presented by Bill Neely, a chaplain at Brooke Grove Foundation, in Sandy Spring. Register with course #12110.

Nutrition Guidelines

Find out about recommended American dietary guidelines to help manage and prevent chronic disease at this free class, from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, March 12. Topics to be addressed

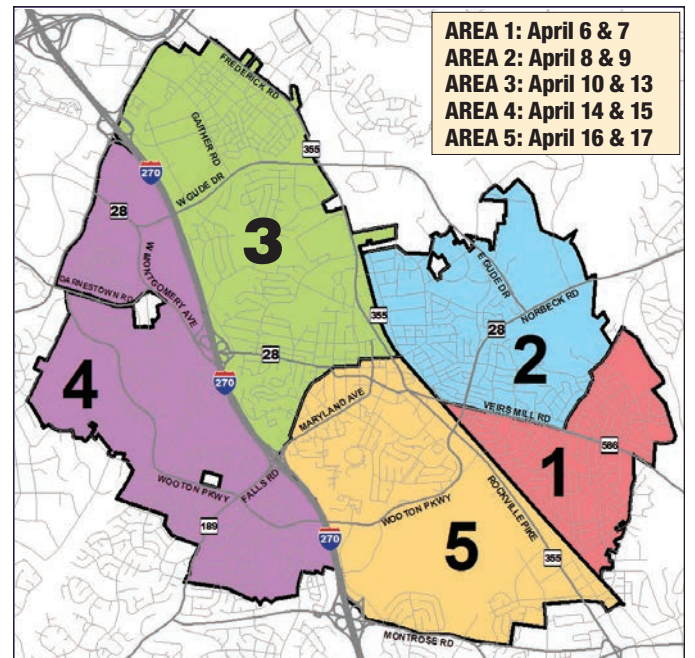
at this free presentation include normal salt and sugar intake, healthy meals, and how to understand food labels. Presented by Adventist HealthCare.

Memory Screening

Worried about memory problems? Take a free and confidential memory screening, Friday, March 20, conducted by licensed professionals. While results are preliminary and educational in nature, use them to facilitate a meaningful discussion with your physician. Appointments are required and available between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. by calling 301-355-6578. Presented by Visiting Angels in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Foundation.

Keeping with the Beat

Atrial fibrillation is an irregular heartbeat or arrhythmia that can lead to blood clots, stroke or heart failure. Edward Heal, a cardiologist, will review the signs and symptoms of atrial fibrillation, as well as nonsurgical and surgi-



See interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection.

Raking News: Leaf Collection in April

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from April 6-17 in five collection areas throughout Rockville.

An interactive map at www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection allows residents to input their address and learn when their leaves will be collected. Unlike the fall leaf collection, which has two collection rounds, city crews make only one pass to collect leaves in spring.

Rake leaves next to, but out of, roadways, gutters and bike lanes, and away from parked vehicles. Leaves should be raked by 6 a.m. on the first day of their collection period, but no earlier than one week before the collection dates to avoid grass damage

or fire hazards. Remove sticks and other objects from leaf piles. Avoid parking near leaf piles or other vehicles.

After the collection period ends, use biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans (without plastic garbage bags) to set leaves out on your refuse and recycling collection day. Use alternative disposal methods such as mulching or composting. Do not dump leaves, grass clippings or other yard waste into storm drains, along stream banks or directly into streams, where they can cause blockages that contribute to localized flooding or release nutrients that lead to fish kills. +

cal treatment options, at this free session from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, March 26. Register with course #12111.

Stress Reduction/Meditation

Find out about the tools to focus, relax and come to a more peaceful sense of being, with time for meditation and discussion. Betty Figure has taught meditation, guided imagery and stress-reduction classes for over 30 years.

The class is held from 1-2 p.m. on Mondays. Register with course #11523; the cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for nonmembers.

Ongoing Skin Care Clinic

Held the second Thursday of each month. Appointments required. Medicare/insurance will be billed. Call 1-877-345-5300 for appointment, see Betty in the health room, or call her at 240-314-8803. +

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www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdispirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.



Get Into It

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BACK IN THE DAY ... It was March 1982, and the site of what was once Woodley Gardens Elementary School had been transformed into a "one-stop facility" for the city's more mature generations to provide "leisure activities to health, social, and legal services," according to that month's "Rockville Reports." Thus was the Rockville Senior Center born (and is still in operation today).